



PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Washington's 2005 Wheat Harvest Winding Down; Yield Changes from 2004 Mixed on All Crops

Olympia – The August 1 forecast for the 2005 winter wheat crop yield, at 69 bushels per acre, was unchanged from the July forecast. Estimates in the Crop Production report released today by the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service (WASS), were based on conditions as of August 1. “As of August 1, harvest stood at 40 percent completed, compared with a 5-year average of 30 percent. Ideal weather conditions during the peak harvest period allowed combines to rapidly cut this year’s crop. Many growers have completed harvesting.” stated Joe Parsons, Deputy Director of WASS.

As of August 1, Washington’s **winter wheat** producers reported 90 percent of this year’s 1.85 million acres to be in at least fair condition. Head counts were the highest in several years. Producers expected to harvest 69.0 bushels per acre, based on conditions as of August 1, unchanged from the July forecast and 2.0 bushels per acre greater than last year’s yield. Total production is expected to reach 127.7 million bushels, 9 percent above 2004.

Spring wheat harvest was also moving rapidly with 22 percent completed by August 1, compared with a 5-year average of 13 percent. Spring wheat was over 80 percent in fair condition with many fields experience hot, dry spring weather which reduced yield 3.0 bushels per acre from last year’s crop. The crop is expected to average 47.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels more than the July forecast. Acres for harvest totaled 435,000 acres, 90,000 fewer than last year. Production was forecast at 20.4 million bushels, 22 percent less than 2004.

The condition of the **barley** crop was also mostly fair to good. Harvest was 22 percent completed as of August 1, well ahead of last year’s 9 percent and the 5-year average of 12 percent. Yield was expected to average 64.0 bushels per acre, 4.0 bushels above the July forecast, but 6 bushels per acre below the 2004 crop. With 205,000 acres for harvest, production would total 13.1 million bushels, 23 percent below last year.

Alfalfa hay acreage for harvest was expected to be 470,000 acres as of August 1, 2 percent below 2004. With an average yield of 5.30 tons per acre, production was forecast at 2.49 million tons, 4 percent above last year. **Other hay** acreage for harvest was set at 300,000 acres, 3 percent below 2004. Yields were expected to average 3.30 tons per acre, with production estimated at 990,000 tons, slightly below last year.

Dry edible beans were in mostly good condition, with the average yield set at 1,700 pounds per acre. Acreage for harvest, at 48,000 acres, was up 66 percent from 2004. Much of this increase was due to Chickpea (Garbanzo) acreage which increased from 9,800 acres last year to 25,100 acres this year. Production for 2005 for all dry beans was pegged at 816,000 cwt., 34 percent greater than last year’s 609,000 cwt. **Hop** production was estimated at 43.7 million pounds from 20,807 acres. Average yield was forecast at 2,100 pounds compared with 2,137 pounds in 2004. **Corn for grain** production was pegged at 16.2 million bushels from 85,000 acres. The average yield at 190 bushels per acre was down 10.0 bushels from last year. Washington’s **sugarbeet** production was set at 61,000 tons from 1,700 acres. Average yield was set at 35.9 tons per acre.

Nationally, winter wheat was expected to average 44.4 bushels per acre from 34.3 million acres. Total production was expected to be 1.52 million bushels, 1 percent above last year. Spring wheat production (other than durum) was expected to decrease 3 percent to 553 million bushels. Forecast productions for other crops and their change from 2004 are as follows: barley, 237 million bushels, 15 percent below last year; alfalfa hay, 73.8 million tons, down 2 percent; other hay, 76.1 million tons, down 8 percent; dry beans, 25.8 million cwt., up 45 percent; hops, 57.7 million pounds, up 5 percent; corn for grain, 10.3 billion bushels, down 13 percent; oats, 128 million bushels, up 10 percent and sugarbeets, 26.6 million tons, down 11 percent from last year.

FIELD CROP SUMMARY, AUGUST 1, 2005

CROP	WASHINGTON						PACIFIC NW 1/		UNITED STATES		
	Harvested		Unit	Yield		Production		Production		Production	
	2004	2005		2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Thousand Acres					Thousand		Thousand		Thousand	
All Wheat	2,275	2,285	Bu.	63.1	64.8	143,500	148,095	301,190	311,275	2,068,352	2,074,223
Winter Wheat	1,750	1,850	Bu.	67.0	69.0	117,250	127,650	227,830	248,680	1,499,434	1,520,848
Spring Wheat	525	435	Bu.	50.0	47.0	26,250	20,445	73,360	62,595	568,918	553,375
Barley	245	205	Bu.	70.0	64.0	17,150	13,120	81,768	72,815	279,253	236,729
Corn, Grain	105	85	Bu.	200.0	190	21,000	16,150	NA	NA	11,807,217	10,349,841
Hops	19.38	20.81	Lbs.	2,137	2,100	41,426.9	43,694.7	55,203.9	57,718.5	55,203.9	57,718.5
Sugarbeets	3.8	1.7	Tons	37.9	35.9	144	61	6,050	4,869	29,956	26,639
All Hay	790	770	Tons	4.3	4.5	3,392	3,481	12,366	12,179	157,774	149,917
Alfalfa Hay	480	470	Tons	5.0	5.3	2,400	2,491	9,184	9,029	75,383	73,849
Other Hay	310	300	Tons	3.2	3.3	992	990	3,182	3,150	82,391	76,068
Dry Beans	29.0	48.0	Cwt.	21.0	17.0	609	816	2,363	2,885	17,799	25,829
Potatoes, Fall	159	154	Cwt.	590	2/	93,810	2/	245,555	2/	455,933	2/

1/ Includes Oregon, Idaho, and Washington.

2/ First production forecast November 12, 2005.

Winter Wheat Harvested Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2003-2005

State	Acres Harvested		Yield				Production		
	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005		2003	2004	2005
					Jul 1	Aug 1			
	1,000		Bushels				1,000 Bushels		
Washington	1,750	1,850	65	67	69	69	117,000	117,250	127,650
Oregon	780	840	51	61	61	65	47,940	47,580	54,600
Idaho	700	730	80	90	92	91	57,600	63,000	66,430
Pacific NW	3,230	3,420	64.3	70.5	72.0	72.7	222,540	227,830	248,680
Kansas	8,500	9,600	48	37	39	39	480,000	314,500	374,400
Oklahoma	4,700	3,900	39	35	33	33	179,400	164,500	128,700
Montana	1,630	2,050	37	41	43	45	67,340	66,830	92,250
Nebraska	1,650	1,700	46	37	41	39	83,720	61,050	66,300
Colorado	1,700	2,400	35	27	27	24	77,000	45,900	57,600
Texas	3,500	3,200	28	31	31	31	96,600	108,500	99,200
Ohio	890	830	68	62	68	70	68,000	55,180	58,100
10 States	25,800	27,100	45.0	40.5	41.6	41.5	1,274,600	1,044,290	1,125,230
U.S. Total	34,462	34,271	46.7	43.5	44.5	44.4	1,716,721	1,499,434	1,520,848

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2001-2005 1/ 2/

Year	Winter					Spring					
	Hard Red	Soft Red	Hard White 2/	Soft White 2/	All White	Hard Red	Hard White 2/	Soft White 2/	All White	Durum	Total
	1,000 Bushels										
2001	765,898	397,098			190,123	475,085			35,693	83,556	1,947,453
2002	620,328	320,968			195,705	351,439			37,478	79,960	1,605,878
2003	1,070,996	380,435			265,290	499,674			31,728	96,637	2,344,760
2004	856,211	380,305			262,918	525,467			43,451	89,893	2,158,245
2005	913,260	319,994	26,404	261,190	287,594	516,334	4,477	32,564	37,041	92,955	2,167,178

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on the latest available data including both survey and administrative data. The previous end-of-season class percentages are used throughout the forecast season, except for States where updated information is available.

2/ Individual Hard White and Soft White estimates not available prior to 2005.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/wwhtaug.pdf>